



Control Number: 32182



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Texas Regulatory

AT&T Texas
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January 18, 2006

David Featherston
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78711

***Re: Project No. 32182 – PUC Investigation of Methods to Improve Electric and
Telecom Infrastructure That will minimize Long term Outages and Restoration
Costs associated with Gulf Coast Hurricanes.***

Please replace the attachment AT&T Texas filed on January 17, 2006 in this project with the attached responses. AT&T Texas apologizes for the inconvenience.

Please call me at (512) 870-2107 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Steele
Area Manager – Regulatory Relations

Attachment

Questions for workshop in Project 32182

1. If your company provided service in the areas affected by Hurricane Rita, please provide your company specific information on the number of customers affected, the minimum, maximum and average outage duration for the customers affected.

Answer: Affected Customers: estimated 90,000
Actual Reports: 9/24/05 - 11/30/05: 75,249
Intervals:
September:
Min: 0 Minutes
Avg: 25 Hours
Max: 871 Hours
October:
Min: 0 Minutes
Avg: 118 Hours
Max: 822 Hours
November:
Min: 0 Minutes
Avg: 103 Hours
Max: 1608 Hours
December:
Min: 0 Minutes
Avg: 18 Hours
Max: 503 Hours

The maximum duration any one customer was out of service was 67 days. This was due to the need for a complete neighborhood re-build.

2. Please provide information on additional non-company resources deployed in the area for the restoral effort.

Answer: AT&T Texas used non-company resources for:

- Engineering
- tree trimming
- placement of poles
- telephone cable placement
- removal of poles and telephone cable
- cable delivery
- setup of generators
- food services
- security

3. Please provide information on the types and physical quantity of facilities affected by the hurricane in your service area.
- a) What percent of those facilities were replaced using existing inventory,
 - b) What percent of those facilities had to be newly procured?
 - c) Are the facilities replaced meet the existing standards or exceed the standards to ensure survivability in the event of another hurricane of category 4 or higher?

Answer: 23.6% of AT&T Texas' facilities from Center to Sabine Pass, or a major part of South East Texas were affected by hurricane Rita

- a) 0%
- b) 100%

c) The AT&T Texas facilities were placed in accordance to the company's established methods and practices for placing aerial and buried facilities.

4. What lessons were learned in the process that would improve restoral time or reduce cost of restoral in the future?

Answer: AT&T Texas learned that the damage assessment process can be improved. The use of facility maps would allow the damage assessment team (DAT) to highlight the exact facilities that are damaged rather than attempt to describe them in a few words or short narrative. AT&T Texas is looking at methods to utilize such facility drawings for future events. In addition, DAT members would be assembled prior to deployment and given detailed instructions of how to perform the assessment. In addition, AT&T Texas learned that contact with the power utilities prior to the storm would be beneficial with respect to a cooperative restoration agreement. Such an agreement could mitigate or eliminate damage to telecommunications facilities during the power restoration process.

5. What, if any, additional costs would be associated with improvements from lessons learned identified above? To what degree, if any, might they be offset by more timely restoral of services?

Answer: The costs that are readily identifiable at this point are the labor costs associated with putting together facility maps and restoration agreements with power companies.

6. How might your company's physical infrastructure be modified or replaced to enhance its ability to withstand severe hurricanes?

Answer: AT&T Texas' physical infrastructure could be constructed of more buried plant. However, doing so creates other problems. While buried plant would not be affected by wind and falling trees, both could be affected by large storm surges and flooding, especially along the lower coastal areas

7. How does the cost of the modifications and replacements identified above compare with that of replacing storm-damaged infrastructure in the past?

Answer: Generally, buried facilities are expensive and time consuming to build than the alternative aerial facilities. However, after a hurricane, it will generally prove easier to replace replacing aerial plant with aerial plant and thus I restore telephone service faster than placing buried plant. In some cases AT&T Texas designed projects to replace damaged aerial plant with buried copper or fiber cable, while the existing service was temporarily restored. After the completion of the new buried plant the existing service was moved to the permanent cable.

8. Has your company modified the planning, engineering and construction practices since Hurricane Rita for deploying facilities in the Texas Gulf coast region, if so how, please provide details.

Answer: No.

9. How should the cost identified in the responses to the previous questions be recovered? Should the cost be recovered from general body of ratepayers, from the ratepayers in the affected areas, or from some other source?

Answer: It is AT&T Texas's view that the restoration costs associated with disasters such as Hurricane Rita are a "cost of doing business" and are handled within the financial resources of the company.

10. What changes in depreciation practices are appropriate?

Answer: None at this time.

11. Should utility standards of construction in the coastal area be upgraded? Has your company provided input or planning to participate in the activities of standard setting organizations? If so provide details.

Answer: Construction standards in the coastal area should not be changed. The FCC has created an independent task force seeking recommendations related to Hurricane Katrina. Cingular is participating, but AT&T Texas is not at this time

Please respond to the following questions if your company sustained more than minimal damage from Hurricane Rita.

1. Please provide the following information regarding transmission lines damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class.

Wood single-pole

Wood (other)

Steel single-pole

Steel lattice

Steel (other)

Concrete single-pole

Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

Answer: The "Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage" is answered in (a) below.

Total number of wood single-pole in primary Rita affected area: 53,314

Wood single-pole sustaining damage and replaced in the primary Rita affected area: 700. AT&T Texas only has wood poles in this area.

a. Total number of sheath feet of telephone cable in primary Rita affected area: 12,211,990

**The total number of sheath feet of cable replaced: 2,662,614 – 21.8%
156,000 feet of the 2,662,614 feet is classified as feeder cable.**

2. Please provide the following information regarding distribution lines (feeders) damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class

Wood single-pole

Wood (other)

Steel single-pole

Steel lattice

Steel (other)

Concrete single-pole

Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

Answer: See answer to number 1 above.

3. Please provide the following information regarding transmission only substations damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding
Wind
Flying debris
Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding
Wind
Flying debris
Other

Answer: Not Applicable.

4. Please provide the following information regarding distribution substations damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding
Wind
Flying debris
Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding
Wind
Flying debris
Other

Answer: Total Central Offices in the Primary Rita Affected area: 44

Central Offices sustaining damage in the Primary Rita Affected area: 1 – Sabine Pass was destroyed by the Storm Surge.

Central Offices in the Primary Rita Affected Area requiring back-up power: 44 (Commercial Power was completely restored to all Central Offices by 10/13/05)

****Shortly after landfall, there were 108 Central Offices that required Back-up Power. The 64 not in the Primary Affected area were back on Commercial Power within a few days.**

5. Please provide the number of distribution substations that were:

Unable to serve load due to damage to the station from Hurricane Rita

Unable to serve load solely because of transmission line outage from Hurricane Rita

Answer: Total Remote Terminals in the Affected Area: 2114 (does not include customer premise sites)

Remote Terminals Damaged requiring Replacement: 4 DMS "Urbans" 3 in Vidor and one in Nacogdoches

Remote Terminals requiring back-up Power: 633 (Total sites reporting in "alarm status", some cleared before the generator could be placed)

6. Please describe the extent of any damage sustained by each utility power plant (if applicable).

Answer: Sabine Pass Central Office was destroyed by the storm surge. A Remote Terminal was installed and in-service by October 6, 2005.

7. Please describe any damage sustained by the transmission/distribution control center.

Answer: Not Applicable.

8. Please describe any damage sustained by the communication system (voice and data) that impacted the restoration after the storm.

Answer: Cellular Service was diminished during the 1st week of the storm, making immediate communication with field personnel difficult.